

CHAPTER XI.—PLATES 44, 45, 46, 47, 47*, 48.

PERSIAN ORNAMENT.

PLATES XLIV., XLV., XLVI.

Ornaments from Persian MSS. in the British Museum.

PLATES XLVII., XLVII*.

From a Persian Manufacturer's Pattern-Book, South Kensington Museum.

PLATE XLVIII.

From a Persian MS. South Kensington Museum.

THE Mohammadan architecture of Persia, if we may judge from the representations published in Flandin and Coste's "Voyages en Perse," does not appear to have ever reached the perfection of the Arabian buildings of Cairo. Although presenting considerable grandeur in the main features, the general outlines are much less pure, and there would appear to be a great want of elegance in all the constructive features as compared with those of Cairo. Their system of ornamentation also appears to us much less pure than the Arabian and Moresque. The Persians, unlike the Arabs and the Moors, were free to introduce animal life, and this mixing up of subjects drawn from real life in their decoration led to a much less pure style of ornament. With the Arabs and Moors, ornaments with their inscriptions had to supply every want, and therefore it became of more importance in their structures, and reached a higher point of elaboration. Persian ornament is a mixed style; combining the conventional, which is similar to the Arabian, and probably derived from a common origin, with an attempt at the natural which sometimes has influenced both the Arabian and Turkish styles, and is even felt in portions of the Alhambra. The great attention paid to the illuminating of manuscripts